

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide funding for innovations in community policing, mental health care, and community safety, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Mental As-  
5       sistance Responder Teams Community Policing Act” or  
6       the “SMART Community Policing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to strength community po-  
3 licing programs to—

4 (1) de-escalate interactions with law enforce-  
5 ment officers to achieve better outcomes for non-vio-  
6 lent individuals experiencing crisis or trauma relat-  
7 ing to mental health issues, poverty, homelessness,  
8 and substance use disorders;

9 (2) build collaborative partnerships to connect  
10 individuals with mental health services and commu-  
11 nity resources; and

12 (3) produce better outcomes for communities  
13 and law enforcement officers by delivering the ap-  
14 propriate treatment and other support services to in-  
15 dividuals in need.

16 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED USES OF COPS FUNDS.**

17 Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Con-  
18 trol and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b))  
19 is amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (22), by striking “and” at the  
21 end;

22 (2) in paragraph (23), by striking the period at  
23 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(24) to establish or expand a mobile crisis  
26 team program to—

1                   “(A) hire skilled mental health profes-  
2                   sionals and paramedics to—

3                   “(i) respond to—

4                   “(I) certain 911 dispatch calls at  
5                   the request of law enforcement offi-  
6                   cers; and

7                   “(II) community members re-  
8                   questing assistance directly;

9                   “(ii) stabilize encounters between law  
10                  enforcement officers and individuals expe-  
11                  riencing a mental or behavioral health cri-  
12                  sis; and

13                  “(iii) assume responsibility for secur-  
14                  ing mental health services for individuals,  
15                  including individuals in crisis who may  
16                  need further evaluation and treatment;

17                  “(B) train law enforcement officers  
18                  partnering with mental health professionals and  
19                  paramedics;

20                  “(C) use a mobile unit to facilitate the re-  
21                  sponse of law enforcement officers and mental  
22                  health professionals and paramedics to commu-  
23                  nity members experiencing a mental or behav-  
24                  ioral health crisis; and

25                  “(D) hire other personnel;

1           “(25) to establish or expand a co-responder  
2           program under which—

3           “(A) a trained law enforcement officer is  
4           paired with a behavioral health clinician or  
5           paramedic to—

6           “(i) de-escalate situations involving a  
7           mental health crisis;

8           “(ii) connect individuals with mental  
9           illness to appropriate services; and

10          “(iii) provide other effective and effi-  
11          cient responses to individuals with mental  
12          illness; and

13          “(B) additional personnel, including law  
14          enforcement officers and case managers, may  
15          be hired; and

16          “(26) to establish or expand a case manage-  
17          ment and outreach team—

18          “(A) to follow up with individuals experi-  
19          encing a mental or behavioral health crisis to—

20          “(i) connect those individuals with  
21          mental health services and community re-  
22          sources; and

23          “(ii) help those individuals abide by  
24          treatment plans and meet other respon-

1                   sibilities, such as work, school, and train-  
2                   ing;

3                   “(B) to develop specific solutions for, and  
4                   provide support resources to, individuals who  
5                   frequently use emergency services to reduce re-  
6                   peat interactions between the individuals de-  
7                   scribed in subparagraph (A) and law enforce-  
8                   ment officers or mental health professionals and  
9                   paramedics; and

10                  “(C) which may be established as a part of  
11                  a mobile crisis team program under paragraph  
12                  (24), a co-responder program under paragraph  
13                  (25), or an independent team.”.